In the Claims:

1. (Original) In a cellular telephone including a microphone, a modulator, an antenna, and an RF amplifier, the device serving to receive audio and transmit an RF signal conveying audio modulation, an improvement comprising a steganographic encoder for hiding plural bits of auxiliary data within the audio modulation of said RF signal.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1 in which said plural bits comprise data used to discourage piracy of cellular telephony service.

3. (Original) The device of claim 1 in which said plural bits comprise data identifying the cellular telephone.

4. (Original) A method of operating a cellular telephone, said telephone including a microphone coupled to a transmitter, and a receiver coupled to a transducer, the telephone serving to transmit a wireless signal modulated with a voice signal using an antenna, the method characterized by altering the voice signal to steganographically embed a multi-symbol auxiliary data string therein, wherein transmission of the wireless voice signal also conveys the auxiliary data string hidden therein.

5. (Original) In a battery-powered wireless reception device sized for fitting in a user's pocket or purse, the device including an RF amplifier, an antenna, a demodulator, and a speaker, the device serving to receive RF transmissions and output an audio signal conveyed thereby, an improvement comprising a steganographic decoder for discerning multi-symbol auxiliary data conveyed as slight alterations to said audio signal.

6. (Original) The device of claim 5 that further includes a processor to which data output by the steganographic decoder is provided.

7. (Original) In a method of operating a battery-powered wireless reception device sized for fitting in a user's pocket or purse, the device including an RF amplifier, a demodulator, an antenna, and a speaker, the device serving to receive RF transmissions and output an audio signal conveyed thereby, an improvement comprising steganographically decoding multi-symbol auxiliary data from said audio signal, and controlling some aspect of the device in accordance therewith.

8. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

providing a digital information that is to be wirelessly transmitted to a portable device, and at said portable device be rendered in human-perceptible form to a consumer;

steganographically encoding said digital information with said plural-bit auxiliary data, prior to being wirelessly transmitted;

at said portable device, recovering said auxiliary data that was steganographically encoded in said digital information;

storing said auxiliary data in said portable device; and

using said stored auxiliary data to control an aspect of the portable device's operation.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 that includes using said stored auxiliary data to reprogram parameters of said portable device.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 that includes transmitting digital information to plural portable devices, wherein each set of said transmitted digital information is steganographically encoded with the same plural-bit auxiliary data.

11. (New) A method comprising:

providing a digital information that is to be wirelessly transmitted to a portable device, and at said portable device be rendered in human-perceptible form to a consumer;

steganographically encoding said digital information with said plural-bit auxiliary data, prior to being wirelessly transmitted;

at said portable device, recovering said auxiliary data that was steganographically encoded in said digital information; and

using said auxiliary data to control an aspect of the portable device's operation.

12. (New) The method of claim 11 that includes using said auxiliary data to reprogram parameters of said portable device.

13. (New) The method of claim 11 that includes transmitting digital information to plural portable devices, wherein each set of said transmitted digital information is steganographically encoded with the same plural-bit auxiliary data.